

HHC, 312th MI

Headhunter Newsletter

August 1, 2004

Commander and 1SG Notes

August already! MANY THANKS AT THE BEGINNING THIS MONTH. Wanted to first thank you all who participated with the BLORA Bash for the middle of this month. I'm sure this will be a wonderful event that you all there on the home front will enjoy. We here on this end will be with you in spirit if not in person and look forward to next year's events out at the lake (in person). Also wanted to thank all of you who participated in the chillow program. I just received mine today from my "household 6" and look forward to trying it out tonight. They are slowly trickling in through the mail system and I am passing them out just as fast as they are getting to us. Thank you for those of you who contributed to the HHC Spur Fund. This is going to allow for us to award spurs to each of our soldiers deployed in Iraq in an age-old Cavalry tradition. You should all be proud of this effort as HHC led the charge and enabled the Battalion to purchase spurs for all of the Silent Warriors.

Someone once told me that as the Commander, as hard as I might work to keep things running, I would receive infinitely more from the experience than I could ever put in. I thought about it at the time but really couldn't appreciate it until we got over here. Our soldiers here in Iraq make me proud each and every day and they amaze me with

their determination, skill, courage and patriotism. We all have bad days from time to time but you see every day someone helping a fellow soldier battle through and get the job done. That same approach is at work with the FRG as well, which from our position in Iraq is very comforting

As we approach the midway point of our tour here in Iraq, the 1SG and I have really tried to fight the complacency bug. I'd ask that you all do the same from your end. As the HHC family slowly starts to reassemble all of its parts and pieces from summer vacations and getaways, find a way to get back involved with the FRG if you've been away for a while. Let us know what we can do better, and if you're able try and find time to put a little something back in to make the family stronger. There are so many of you out there that are existing just fine without the help of the FRG...but these are the kind of folks we are looking for at this time of the deployment...you may not need help, but you might be blessed with a particular skill that could be put to use to help someone else. Some of you veterans out there have done this a few times and could help out a young family struggling with the challenges of the separation.

The most important thing the 1SG and I stress here is that we bring everyone back home safe and sound. The FRG has a similar mission in that we

want to deliver our soldiers safe and sound to strong and healthy families. As all of us can attest, I don't care who you are, deployments are not easy on families in any circumstance. Teamwork in Iraq and teamwork on the home front will get us all through this together.

GOOD NEWS...the leave slots look pretty darn good for the second month in a row. HHC was allocated a total of 39 slots for the month. August was also the most in demand month as far as soldier requests were concerned. Let's all cross our fingers that this keeps up. Enjoy the last few weeks of summer and God Bless!

CPT Bishop "Headhunter 6"
1SG Torres "Headhunter 9"

Kristen's Corner

As a reminder we will not have an FRG meeting this month, since my daughter is due to be born, via scheduled cesarian, on August 16th. I will be out of the net for a few days afterwhich, while I am staying in the hospital. If you need to reach me in case of emergency, please use my cell phone, 291-5365. CPT McIntire is also available, along with the Rear Detachment, if you need a question answered. 287-2146/5821/7670.

Thank you to Angela Regan and LeeAnn Basilli for watching our sister unit's children during their FRG meeting this month.

Thank you to Bev Tounzen for orchestrating a mass shipment of baked goods to our soldiers this month. A special thank you as well, to all who helped her to make it possible: Calvary Chapel, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion, Dina Rubin, Tiffany Phillips, Gayla Strong, Marcy Bingham, Jeremiah Tounzen, and the Imperial Irrigation District employees. There is no way I can express the gratitude of the soldiers you touched by giving up your time and sending them a little something to show you care about their work.

In case you have misplaced it, here is the BN web site address.

http://www.hood.army.mil/1CD_312thmibn/312%20BN%20F RG.htm

-Kristen Bishop (FRG Leader)

Community and Unit Calendar

August 7: Back-To-School

Bingo-Children of Military Families are invited (Must show Mil. ID) 11 a.m., Community Events Center. Entry is Free, Lunch is served. Each child leaves with school supplies! Winners receive great back-to-school shopping from local stores!

Hosted by the Fort Hood Area Enlisted Spouses Club

August 7: Salado Legends 8:15 p.m., \$13 for Adults and \$5 for Children. Optional Dinner: 7:15 p.m. \$8.00 Adult or Child
For more information, call 287-7310. Military Discount Tickets on Sale Now at ITR. ITR is located on 761st Tank Battalion Avenue next to Clothing Sales. See history

come alive. The 12th Annual Salado Legends follows the history of the founding of Salado, TX. It is the only outdoor drama in Texas to be chosen by the Library of Congress Bicentennial celebration to serve as a record of life in America at the end of the 19th century. The show is lighthearted, dramatic, humorous and packed with Texas history. Salado Legends is a must see!

August 14: BLORA End of Summer Bash.

We have reserved the Cedar Grove Pavilion, located directly in between the water slides and the lake for swimming. BBQ will be catered by Rudy's. Admission into the park is **FREE!** If you are local then you are receiving this newsletter in the mail instead of on email because there are Park admission passes enclosed with this newsletter. Please bring this with you to turn in at the gate. Without it, you will have to pay for admission. There will be games, a bouncey house, snow cones and a popcorn machine. Be sure to leave the date open!! It looks to be a wonderful way to spend a Saturday. (There is NO COST to you, thanks to some really generous donations.)

September 16: FRG Meeting/ Pizza party. **HUGE** slideshow presentation!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome our newest little Headhunters. CPT and Mrs Sims-Hall are the proud new parents of twins. One boy (Anthony) and one girl (Alyssa). Welcome to the family!!

R&R Leave

Rear Detachment has been getting a high volume of calls from family members not understanding the Iraq leave process. When a soldier is given an Environmental Leave slot, that is the day they leave Iraq to go to Kuwait. Once the soldier gets to Kuwait, they are not a priority for a flight. Emergency leave, Medical Evacuations, and Availability of Aircraft are all priorities. It can take a soldier from 3-5 days to get home once they leave Kuwait. When the soldier is given an itinerary, they usually call the family to let them know. However this itinerary changes quite often, and a recurring problem we are facing is the family showing up at the airport and the soldier is not on the flight. Once the soldier leaves Iraq, we have no way to track the soldier. Rear Detachment has no access to their travel plans.

Here is a simple explanation of how the flights work. The soldiers are transported by a military aircraft from Iraq to Kuwait. There they can wait a 3-5 days before being put on their next flight, which is a civilian aircraft that stops in either Germany or Ireland to refuel. The soldiers disembark for 2+ hours there. This gives them time to call home to share the itinerary. Once that plane is airborne, it will fly to DFW, then the soldier will either be flown into Killeen where they can be picked up at the airport or flown into Austin and bussed to Fort Hood. (If the Fort Hood area is their leave address)

Soldiers have been calling from Kuwait telling family members that they are on the way. There are two problems with that. Sometimes there is up to a 3 day wait in Kuwait. Second, they still have the refuel in Germany or Ireland, with the possibility of a weather or mechanical delay.

Rest assured, the wait time the soldiers face during their travel does not affect the number of days they are given for leave. Their 2 weeks of leave begins when they arrive at their leave address.

CPT AL CRAWFORD
US ARMY PERSONNEL
ASSISTANCE POINT
2424 38TH AVE, STE 111
IRVING TX. 75261

Miscellaneous INFORMATION **Household Hazardous Material** **Turn-in & Reuse Program**

Fort Hood has begun a new program available to all Soldiers, DoD cardholders and their families. Any used or excess hazardous products from home can be brought to the Classification unit, located at 31st & North Avenue, for reuse. If you need products, they may be picked up free of charge.

This program is designed to help our community by ensuring chemicals are not released improperly to the environment. For more information please refer to the DPW website:

<http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/Files/ENV/HSMS/HHHM.pdf>

Products accepted: Motor Oil, Bleach, Detergents, Floor wax, Pesticides, Batteries, Paint

Products Not accepted:
Ammunition, Food Products,
Medical Products

New Parent Support Program

Plus- 287-2286: This is a great opportunity for all new parents, new and old. This service offers help, advice and education being a new parent or adding to the family. They offer home visits, support groups, parenting education and play mornings where you and your children can learn to socialize and interact with other families.

Finally, There is a **parent-Child Play Group** for parents & kids 0-3 yrs. From 0930-1100 every Wed at Bronco Youth Center. Call for the list of activities each week at 287-2286

Mothers and More. You can attend three times as a guest before becoming a member! See all the activities below.

August 9, 2004, Monday, 8 p.m. – Mom’s Night Out – Let’s meet at Olive Garden in Killeen. Please RSVP to Melanie by August 8 at 702-5992.

August 11, 2004, Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. - Mom and Tot - Join us at Texas Star Creamery by the Killeen Mall for a tour and then sample some ice cream. Please RSVP by August 10 to Shanna at 699-6268.

August 13, 20, 27, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. -Open Playgroup at Lions Club Park in Killeen (off Stan Schlueter Loop). POC Brooke Toland 699-5035.

August 13, 2004, Friday, 11a.m.-3 p.m. – HOOD

HOWDY – We will have an info desk at Hood Howdy.

August 18, 2004, Wed, 7 p.m. - General Meeting at Kids TherapEZE located at 2904 Trimmier Rd. in Killeen in the Plaza del Sol shopping center. Occupational Therapist, Elizabeth will teach us how to play with our kids to bring out their creativity.

August 24, 2004, Tues, 10:00 a.m. - Mom and Tot - Meet at the Killeen Police Department at 402 N. 2nd Street for a tour of the jail (if there aren’t any inmates) and police car. Please RSVP by Monday, August 23 to Shanna at 699-6268.

Military Discount Tickets for Broadway in Austin

Fort Hood MWR and Broadway in Austin are offering tickets for the first shows of the 2004-2005 season. Tickets are for Jesus Christ Superstar & Dora the Explorer. See these two Broadway productions at a great military discount price. This offer is valid for authorized ITR patrons. Log on to www.broadwayacrossamerica.com/groupsales and enter your password (fthoodtickets) to see dates, times and to purchase tickets.

Free Drag Racing Tickets

Complementary general admission tickets for Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series-Divisional Race are now available at the Fort Hood MWR ITR office. The Races are scheduled for Jul 30 & 31 at the Texas Motorplex in Ennis, Texas. Free tickets are limited to the first 1000 patrons. Stop by the ITR office

today. ITR is located in building 136, next to Mil. Clothing Sales.

Drag Race Schedule: July 30:

Gates open at 8am. Time trials at 10am. Top Sportsman's, Comp and Alcohol Qualify at 5pm and 8pm. **July 31:** Gates open at 7am. Time trials at 8am. Eliminations Sportsmans, Comp, and Alcohol at 10am, Top Sportsman's, Comp and Alcohol at 5pm.

Schools: Immunizations and Physicals update from Darnall: The Clinic will be held Aug 7th & Aug 21st from 8am to 3pm at the Thomas Moore clinic at the corner of 58th & 761st Battalion Ave. Kids 4-18yrs are eligible. You need an appointment to have your child seen at this special clinic for Immunizations and Physicals. Call 288-8888 to make appointment. If you are cannot attend the clinic, kids ages 7+ can go to the allergy clinic at

Thomas Moore Clinic on a walk-in basis M/W/F 1-4 PM.

ARMY ONE SOURCE

1. Within the US 800-464 8107
 2. Outside the US, use appropriate code and the 800-464-81077 all 11 digits must be used
 3. Hearing Impaired 800-364-9118
 4. Spanish 888-732-9020
- Or call your ACS at 287-4ACS

IRAQ MAIL:

If your soldier is in Ferrin Huggins, please use the Baghdad address to send them mail. The Company Commander will deliver the mail to them.

The address for soldiers in the B Co UAV platoon in Taji is:

Rank, Last Name, First Name
4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division
B CO, 312 MI Battalion, TUAV PLT
APO AE 09313

The address for soldiers in the C Co UAV platoon in Taji is:

Rank, Last Name, First Name
4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division
C CO, 312 MI Battalion, TUAV PLT
APO AE 09313

The address for soldiers in Baghdad/Victory North (HHC):

Rank, Last Name, First Name
HHC, 312 MI BN (1st CAV DIV)
APO AE 09344

NEWSLETTER

Have something to add to the newsletter? An idea on how to make it better? Please contact me by August 25th.

POC: Kristen Bishop
254-542-4794

kristen.bishop@us.army.mil